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THE STAR BY MAIL.

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The Street-Sweeping Controversy.

Two topics—closely related, yet distinct—are set forth in the communication on street-sweeping contributed to yesterday's issue of The Star by Contractor Daggett: the character of local street-sweeping and the contest of contract work with day's labor in municipal enterprises. There is a great deal to be said on both sides as to both topics. The Star, however, is satisfied that local methods under the contract system could be improved, and is certain that day's labor is preferable to contract practices in all public work.

Contractor Daggett would have it appear that the majority of citizens who are on the alert to secure as much as they can in return for tax-collected money expended are wholly ignorant and speak without right. He objects to criticism and is restive when any suggestions are made that look to such betterments as taxpayers very properly seek. The idea that asphalt-paved streets should be flushed annually him. An authority on street-sweeping—one of the highest of New York's officials engaged in that important industry—was quoted in The Star on the 10th instant as saying:

"In regard to sprinkling asphalt pavements, it is recommended that when dirt has been given a copious supply of water so as to make a fluid mud, which can be partially removed by brooms, or entirely removed by rubber squeegees, somewhat larger than those used in window-cleaning. If the parties watering the streets cannot supply sufficient water to make the mud fluid, they should be urged to reduce the holes in their sprinklers so that no mud will be formed even though more numerous sprinklers be needed, or else the streets should be sprinkled by those who clean them. The practice of the sprinklers has been to use about enough water to form a slippery but not fluid mud."

This recommendation was strongly supported by the Engineering Record. The asphalt streets in New York are still supposed to be cleaned by contractors, and they are never as clean as they should be. It is quite possible that the New York Street-cleaning Department and the Engineering Record know as much about street cleaning as does the local contractor.

Mr. Daggett would have us believe that there is no pecuniary advantage in light sprinkling and light sweeping, when we know that the use of twice as much water would mean twice as much time lost in filling the sprinklers while increased pressure of brooms on the street-surface would shorten the broom life materially and expensively. The endeavor to shift the blame to Congress because the appropriation is not sufficient to have the streets swept as frequently as they ought to be swept is a digression. The question at issue is "Are the streets well-swept when they are swept?" Popular opinion has it that the work might frequently be better done.

More remarkable than any other of Mr. Daggett's assertions is that which declares "that in no city in the United States where a change has been made from contract to day's labor system has that change proved beneficial, and that where politics has not entered into it the day's labor system has been abandoned after the trial has been made, for the simple reason that they got less work and no better at a very much greater cost." What about New York City? There was a time in that municipality when day's labor was improperly expensed because the municipal structure was based upon politics and not business but the contract system was quite as costly and every whit as unsatisfactory. Today there is no finer force of municipal toilers in the world than that which cleans the unadorned streets of New York; its daily deeds now compel the praise of those who decried it as long as abuse was possible.

That the contract system survives in any municipality is really discreditable to the sensible citizens who permit it to exist. In every instance the municipality can, if it cares to, do the work economically and thoroughly for less money than any responsible contractor's bid; it can save the money which is the contractor's profit. Theorists may say what they please, but experience teaches us that the contract system is wasteful and provocative of discontent. Congress would delight District taxpayers immensely if it would wipe out the contract system requirement in the District and give to the municipal authorities full power to have all District work done by the District.

Whether They Want It or Not. The dealers who are held primarily responsible for the general and flagrant imposition practiced upon the people of Washington by the persistent violation of the law governing the sale of oleomargarine have been paying fines into the treasury secretly, and secure for themselves and their supposed dupes immunity from punishment. Their proposition to settle in such a way the case of the parties now under indictment will doubtless be regarded in many quarters as a confession of guilt. The innocent who, under undue suspicion never fall to court the freest and fairest investigation in the courts of the land. The alleged oleomargarine law violators will, it appears, get the same whether they want it or not.

Mr. Bryan has his regrets ready, but does not know exactly whether he will address them to the populist party or Mr. Sewall.

The Jameson Decision.

The decision in the case of Dr. Jameson and his lieutenants was strictly in accordance with the law and the facts, and it reflects credit on the English Judiciary. Popular sympathy was put aside, and treaty obligations were upheld to the letter.

At the same time the real merits of the question in its larger phases remain untouched and unsettled. They were not before the court, and could not be brought before it. The only matter at issue there related to the acts of Dr. Jameson and his lieutenants in the light of existing law. Another matter altogether is that relating

to the condition of affairs in the Rand, and how strong the temptation long has been for men of means and education and progress there to bring about a change, by force if necessary. What the English court has decided is, in effect, that such change, or any change, cannot be brought about by Englishmen operating upon the lines of Dr. Jameson and his lieutenants. The government is under the protection of England, and hence an attack upon it was indirectly an attack upon the crown, as well as an invasion of a friendly power by unlawfully enlisted Englishmen.

Future developments, both in England and in the Rand, will be awaited with interest. It is a safe assumption that the reform movement in the Rand will not be because of this result in England. What has existed to oppress progressive men there—Englishmen and others—still exists. And as long as it exists it will be fought. The cause of real progress—what makes for larger opportunity and better government—is always just. In the end, too, it always triumphs. President Kruger has assurance. England will keep her treaty obligations with him, but this does not carry with it an endorsement of his government. Neither does the conviction of Dr. Jameson and his men carry with it the declaration that the Uitlanders had no just cause of complaint. Only their method of redressing their wrongs is condemned. Will the English home government take a hand now and assist in redressing those wrongs in a way consistent with the law? If so, the Jameson raid, hard as it has been on the raiders, will turn out to be a public blessing. That is the way Fortune frequently works.

The Vest Question. The policemen's request that they be permitted to shed their white vests in summer time is not unreasonable. The vests are much heavier than their appearance would indicate and they undoubtedly cause a great deal of discomfort during the torrid season. But if the vests are ordered off, there must be uniformity of shirt front. In times past there has been complaint because the vests being absent—three or four hundred policemen would display three or four hundred varieties of shirt that ranged from immaculate cleanliness all the way down to an inexcusable absence of cleanliness. With only one kind of a clean shirt officially permitted, the policemen's vest can advantageously be dispensed with.

Every well-equipped household should have in its stores a sufficient quantity of potassiumdichromate; a new antiseptic discovered in Germany. Scientists who have tested it say that one part of it in two thousand parts of soapsuds will destroy all plant-parasites and so many varieties of bacteria that germs will soon have no terrors for poor suffering humanity. Dwellers in the suburbs—where tramps are sometimes more than annoying—might use the name as a defense. In the city the police will, of course, do all that is possible to prevent the use of the title in affrays, but people cannot be prohibited from carrying it; a big overcoat would be needed to make it a concealed weapon.

Washington's police have again demonstrated their capacity to apprehend criminals. The murderer Smith, whose atrocious butchery was committed only last evening, was captured without difficulty and without the loss of valuable time. A bit of intelligent thought, an intimate knowledge of the haunts of the suspected man, and prompt action on the clues at hand served to land the wretch behind the bars even before the community was fully aware of his crime. His confession makes it sure, of course, that this labor has not been in vain. The authorities of Maryland owe a debt of gratitude to the police of the District for their efficient aid.

If General Weyer took the precaution to procure a round-trip ticket when he left Spain it is not improper to suggest the advisability of keeping the return coupon where he can lay his hand on it.

Mr. Whitney rides the bicycle a little. If he will compare notes with Mr. Reed he will probably reach the conclusion that this does not look like a bicycle year in politics.

Those in authority at the new city post-office building say that today there are employed on the structure two hundred and twenty men; only two hundred and twenty.

Li Hung Chang should have started a little earlier and gotten here about the Fourth of July when we could have made things seem more home-like for him.

It is safe to say that during the present uncertainties Mr. Sewall will keep his head and that his barrel will do likewise.

Tom Watson stands forth as a glaring rebuke to the persons who insist that all populists have whiskers.

The aurora borealis has kindly consented to shut down and give the campaign orators a chance.

Shooting Stars. "Imitation art de sincerest flattery," said Uncle Eben, "but 'tain't nuffin' but flattery after all. Most folks shows dah admirableness ob er great man by coddlin' his weakest p'int."

Unconsoled. Although the mercury goes down, The fact soothes not the heart; We know 'tis simply resting up To get a better start.

Answered Every Purpose. "What you want is a trip to the mountains," said the Chicago man's physician. "Can't spare the time."

"But you've got to have a change of air, and a considerable altitude above the sea level."

"Oh, I'll fix that all right. I'll change my office and go up on the top story of our building."

A Prudent Custom. When for a lengthy biking tour Vacationists prepare, The first inquiry ought to be As to the railroad fare.

Diagnosis. His speech betrayed the fact that he was from London and he had evidently not accustomed himself to the usages of language either in his own country or in this. He was watching two policemen get a man into position for the patrol wagon, and a man came up to him and inquired the sign of the cross.

"What's the matter with that fellow? Is he overboard?"

"No, sir," was the reply; "He don't think 'e's hoovered; He think 'e's hoover-drunked."

Untried. Country's gold' all t' smash—Leastways, so they say; Gittin' ready fur ter dash Down a rocky way. Tell me fur ter git prepared, Times are trouble-fraught; Yet somehow I can't git scared Ez they say I ought.

Rain keeps fallin' ez of old; Corn is tipped with silk; Clover's standin' big an' bold; Cows are givin' milk. So, with Nature's lavishness And an appetite, I can't help but sorter guess Things'll come out right.

WHAT WOMAN

—can withstand such tempting shoe bargains as we offer tomorrow? We are confident that you've never had such an opportunity to buy high-grade shoes for so little money. But you must not delay in getting here—for the way we've cut our prices will move them out at a double quick.

\$5 Patent Leather Shoes \$1.95

A special lot of Women's High-grade Patent Leather Shoes, common sense, opera and round toe. Regular price, \$5 and \$6. Your choice, \$1.95.

\$3, \$3.50 and \$4 Oxfords, \$1.95.

Women's Oxfords, in tan and black, all styles and all sizes, narrow, pointed and wide toes. Regular \$3, \$3.50 and \$4 values. Your choice, \$1.95.

The sooner you get here the better your chance of finding just what you want.

Havenner & Davis, Inc.

928 F St. Atlantic Building.

We repair trunks as we make them—in the best manner possible.

A Good, Strong, Leather-bound TRUNK.

The best trunk in the market for the money. It's strong, leather-bound, with a long, heavy lining. Excelsior style lock, good large side catches. 2 straps, cloth-finished inside. 30-in. .... \$6.50 32-in. .... \$7.00 34-in. .... \$7.50 36-in. .... \$8.50 40-in. .... \$10.00

You can do better here in the trunk and traveling goods line than anywhere you can go. Prices are right—goods are guaranteed.

TOPHAM'S

Headquarters for Travelers' Goods, 1231-1233 Pa. Avenue.

Factory, 1218-1220 E St.

Headquarters for Travelers' and Housewifery Goods.

BARGAINS

In Trunks, Satchels, Hand Bags, Suit Cases, &c.

Now is the time to buy your Trunk, "Grip," etc. We are selling these goods at 15 PER CENT DISCOUNT from our already low prices.

Don't go on your SUMMER OUTING without visiting this store—you will acknowledge that we give the BEST VALUES for the least money in town.

Fine Trunk Repairing at reasonable prices.

BECKER'S,

1328 F St. NEAR THE EBBITT HOUSE.

Telephone 1685.

If You Attended The C. E. Meetings

—during the convention there are a number of incidents, no doubt, you want to remember. You can do this by getting one of our complete sets of views. No other photographer made them.

Reasonable prices. Call and see them.

W. H. Stalee, 1107 F St., Successor to M. B. Brady.

Prompt service every day in the year.

Kennebec Ice

—is superior to all other ice —either harvested or manufactured—factured—in purity and last—ing quality. We serve Kennebec Ice direct from our own ice fields. Full weight —lowest prices.

Order of Drivers or notify office.

Independent Ice Co., 910 Pa. Ave.—3108 Water St. Telephone 501-2.

SAVE THE PIECES

—of your broken dishes, etc., until you can get a bottle of REMUR'S FAMILY CEMENT. Will mend anything except thin. Not affected by temperature. Always ready for use. No matter how long it is kept.

Only 15c. bottle.

N. W. BURCHELL, 1325 F STREET.

32-144

We must clear our shelves of a large stock of Choice Books—best authors—lowest prices—fall goods coming.

John C. Parker, 617-19 7th St. N. W.

32-164

ten off

—of all Trunks, Bags and Traveling Goods —everything in stock until 12th August, and that means the lowest prices you have ever known.

\$2.75 Trunks will be \$2.47. \$4.50 Trunks will be \$4.05. \$5.75 Trunks will be \$5.17.

We'll Repair Trunks, &c., for less money during this time.

Name marked on each Trunk, and Trunk Strap free.

Kneessl, 425 7th St.

32-284

Eyes in Hot Weather

Are often painfully affected by the sun's glare reflected from the asphalt pavement. A pair of properly fitted glasses strengthens the sight and shields the eyes from the sun's rays. We'll test your eyes free, and if glasses are needed—ask only a moderate price for them.

H. H. Brown, Optician, 1010 F St.

32-84

S. Kann, Sons & Co.,

8TH & MARKET SPACE

WE ARE CLOSED

ALL DAY

TOMORROW

on account

of taking

inventory

of what

goods there

are in our

establishment.

THURSDAY'S STAR WILL

CONTAIN A LIST OF ITEMS

WHICH UNDER OUR HEAVY

PRICE PLANING HAVE

DWINDLED DOWN TO LESS

THAN ONE-HALF WHAT

THEY COST US TO BUY. FRI-

DAY MORNING WE WILL

OPEN OUR DOORS AND WILL

STAND PREPARED FOR THE

FRAY WITH

EXTRA HANDS,

EXTRA VALUES,

EXTRA PRICES.

S. Kann, Sons & Co.,

8TH & MARKET SPACE

Any kind of a Lamp you

Light want—just the Lamp you

need—better than any

other light—always a large

assortment on hand.

Geo. F. Muth & Co.,

415 7TH ST. N.W.,

SUCCESSORS TO GEO. RYNEAL, JR.

32-244

Mayer Bros. & Co.,

937-939 F St.

More News

From Our

Clearance Sale.

We are making the strongest kind of a bid for your trade now. We've placed prices where they are out of reach of all competition. Clearing out with us means getting rid of goods at any price. Here's how we are doing it. Add this list to the big one published in Sunday's Post and you'll have a small part of the bargains offered.

RIBBONS.

2,000 yards of Ribbons, in all the different colors and widths. Worth from \$2 to \$60. yard. 11c. To go at 5c. 2,000 yards of All-silk and Satin Ribbons. All colors. 4 and 6 in. wide. Worth \$2 to \$60. To go at 5c.

SUMMER SUITS.

White Duck Suits, with cutaway jacket, full wide skirt, deep hem. Worth \$22.50. To go at \$1.19.

SEPARATE SKIRTS.

White Duck Skirts, extra wide, deep hem. Worth \$1.50. To go at 69c.

Irish Homespun Skirts, extra wide, deep hem. Worth every cent of \$2.25. To go \$1.49.

MILLINERY.

Best quality White and Black Benini Short-lock Sailors. Worth 50 cents. To go at 33c.

Good assortment of Trimmed Sailors. Worth 50 cents. To go at 17c.

About ten Elegantly Trimmed Hats. Worth \$7.00 and \$7.50. To go at \$2.98.

White and Tan Duck Tans. Worth 15c. To go at 9c.

SHIRT WAISTS.

An elegant assortment of Shirt Waists of all kinds, in all the newest styles and most popular materials, reduced to this way:

49c. Waists. .... 21c. 59c. Waists. .... 33c. 89c. Waists. .... 49c. \$1.50 Waists. .... 68c. \$2 and \$2.25 Waists. .... 95c.

Mayer Bros. & Co., 937-939 F St.

Elphonzo Youngs Co.

Choose the summer beverages with care. None are more healthful and refreshing than lime juice, unfermented grape juice, root beer or ginger ale. We've a complete stock of all sorts and sell them for a bit less than others. For instance, we import our own foreign ginger ale and ask but

\$1.25 dozen bottles, while others get \$1.40 and \$1.50.

So many things you can have for a dinner or supper that are ready to serve without having to be cooked. We can suggest a hundred things.

Elphonzo Youngs Co.,

Wholesale and Retail Grocers,

428 9th St. bet. D and E.

P. S.—We close daily at 6 o'clock, including Saturdays.

Wilson's Retiring Sale.

Nothing But Shoe Bargains.

There isn't a shoe in stock that is priced at anywhere near its regular value. Reductions have been made again and again till prices rest now at the lowest notch ever reached hereabouts.

The reason for such sacrifices is I am going to retire from the shoe business. Lose and fixtures for sale.

Ladies' Oxford Ties in Russet and Black, different styles of toe. Reduced from \$2.50 to \$1.68.

Ladies' High Cut Bicycle Shoes, the best that money can buy. Reduced from \$5 to \$3.85.

Men's Regular \$6 Shoes in Patent Leather, Calfskin, Enamel Leather and newest shades Russet. Reduced to \$3.85.

Wilson, 920 F St. N. W.

32-900

It's Too Hot To Bake Bread

—three days. Why heat the house and endure the discomforts of baking when we will do it for you? Drop orders for bread, rolls, biscuits, pies, cakes, etc., you wish—FRESH FROM THE OVEN, in time for breakfast.

When you go to market, don't forget to visit our stands.

Chas. Schneider's

Model Bakery, 413 I St.

And All Markets.

32-11

Woodward

Lothrop,

10th, 11th and F Sts. N.W.

A Special Shirt Waist Bargain.

A lot of Fine Imported Madras and Lawn Shirt Waists, large variety of patterns, full bishop sleeves, yoke back, straight and bias front, all sizes.

50c. Each. Reduced From \$1.50.

Three Special Values in Boys' Trousers.

Boys' White Duck Trousers. 25c. pair. Value 50c.

Boys' Blue Duck Trousers. 25c. pair. Value 50c.

Boys' Brown Linen Trousers. 50c. pair. Value 75c.

A Four-Day Remnant Sale

Was begun today in connection with our Pre-Inventory Clearance Sale. Scattered lots, odds and ends, short lengths and the like bother a body in stock taking. In order to rid ourselves of all goods of this character and to get stock down to a certain figure in a fixed time, we have made the prices extraordinarily low.

There are scores of these handy odds and ends here and there in every stock, very desirable to the consumer, but which have lost their value to us on account of incompleteness of assortment and so on. They are of this season's production and will be quickly recognized as bargains by shrewd buyers.

Cotton Dress Goods

Remnants of this season's most popular thin fabrics in useful lengths at clearing prices.

Remnants Lawns, Dimities and Percales, 1 to 2 1/2 yards.

5c. yd. Reduced from 8, 10 & 15c. Same in lengths from 3 to 6 yards.

8c. yd. Reduced from 12 1/2, 15 & 17c. Same in lengths from 10 to 15 yards.

8 1/2c. yd. Reduced from 10, 15 & 17c. (1st floor—10th st. bldg.)

China Dept.

Odd pieces, broken sets, etc., in China, Porcelain and Earthenware, arranged on center counters and priced for quick selling.

Table 1—Contains Plates, Sauce and Fruit Dishes, Individual Dishes, etc.

5c. each. Were up to 10c.

Table 2—Contains Pitchers, Cups and Saucers, Plates, Sauce Dishes, Custard, etc.

10c. each. Were up to 25c.

Table 3—Contains Cups and Saucers, Plates, Cream Pitchers, Small Salads, Sauce Plates, etc.

15c. each. Were up to 25c.

Millinery Department.

2 Silk Mill Hats, blue and red. Reduced from \$4.00 to \$1.50.